In the Claims:

Claims 1-131 (cancelled)

Claim 132. (Previously presented) An isolated boiling stable polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity.

Claim 133. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 132, encoded by a polynucleotide having a sequence at least 60 % identical with SEQ ID NOs:1, 5, 6, 34, 39 or 40, as determined using the BestFit software of the Wisconsin sequence analysis package, utilizing the Smith and Waterman algorithm, where gap weight equals 50, length weight equals 3, average match equals 10 and average mismatch equals -9.

Claim 134. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 132, having a sequence at least 60 % homologous to SEQ ID NOs:2 or 35, as determined using the BestFit software of the Wisconsin sequence analysis package, utilizing the Smith and Waterman algorithm, where gap creation penalty equals 8 and gap extension penalty equals 2.

Claim 135. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 132 which is natively an oligomer.

Claim 136. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 132, wherein said chaperone-like activity includes heat stabilization of proteins.

Claim 137. (Previously presented) An isolated detergent stable polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity.

Claim 138. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 137 encoded by

a polynucleotide having a sequence at least 60 % identical with SEQ ID NOs:1, 5, 6, 34, 39 or 40, as determined using the BestFit software of the Wisconsin sequence analysis package, utilizing the Smith and Waterman algorithm, where gap weight equals 50, length weight equals 3, average match equals 10 and average mismatch equals -9.

Claim 139. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 137, having a sequence at least 60 % homologous to SEQ ID NOs:2 or 35, as determined using the BestFit software of the Wisconsin sequence analysis package, utilizing the Smith and Waterman algorithm, where gap creation penalty equals 8 and gap extension penalty equals 2.

Claim 140. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 137 which is natively an oligomer.

Claim 141. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 137, wherein said chaperone-like activity includes heat stabilization of proteins.

Claim 142. (Previously presented) An isolated protease resistant polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity.

Claim 143. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 142 encoded by a polynucleotide having a sequence at least 60 % identical with SEQ ID NOs:1, 5, 6, 34, 39 or 40, as determined using the BestFit software of the Wisconsin sequence analysis package, utilizing the Smith and Waterman algorithm, where gap weight equals 50, length weight equals 3, average match equals 10 and average mismatch equals -9.

Claim 144. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 142, having a sequence at least 60 % homologous to SEQ ID NOs:2 or 35, as determined using the BestFit software of the Wisconsin sequence analysis package, utilizing the Smith and

Waterman algorithm, where gap creation penalty equals 8 and gap extension penalty equals 2.

Claim 145. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 142 which is natively an oligomer.

Claim 146. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 142, wherein said chaperone-like activity includes heat stabilization of proteins.

Claim 147. (Cancelled)

Claim 148. (Previously presented) A fusion protein comprising a denaturant stable and/or protease resistant polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity fused to an additional polypeptide.

Claim 149. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 148, wherein said denaturant stable and/or protease resistant polypeptide having said chaperone-like activity is fused to said additional polypeptide via a peptide bond.

Claim 150.(Previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 148, wherein said denaturant stable and/or protease resistant polypeptide having said chaperone-like activity is fused to said additional polypeptide via a cross-linker.

Claim 151. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 148, having an oligomeric form.

Claim 152. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising, as an active ingredient, a denaturant stable and/or protease resistant protein, said denaturant stable and/or protease resistant protein having a chaperone-like activity, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 153. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 151, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is packaged in a package and identified in print for use in a wound healing application.

Claim 154. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 152, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is packaged in a package and identified in print for use in a strengthening and/or grooming hair, nail or skin application.

Claims 155-170. (Cancelled)

Claim 171. (New) A fusion protein comprising the boiling stable polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity of claim 132 fused to an additional polypeptide.

Claim 172. (New) The fusion protein of claim 171, having an oligomeric form.

Claim 173. (New) A fusion protein comprising the detergent stable polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity of claim 137 fused to an additional polypeptide.

Claim 174. (New) The fusion protein of claim 173, having an oligomeric form.

Claim 175. (New) A fusion protein comprising the protease resistant polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity of claim 142 fused to an additional polypeptide.

Claim 176. (New) The fusion protein of claim 175, having an oligomeric form.